

REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
FOR THE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF HETTON
For the Year 1918.

EASINGTON LANE,
HETTON-LE-HOLE.
JUNE, 1919.

To the Members of the Urban District Council of Hetton.

GENTLEMEN—

I have the honour to submit to you the Annual Report of the Vital Statistics and Sanitary conditions of your district for the year 1918.

As in former years, the Registrar General has supplied two estimates of the population of the district, viz. : 16165 and 14427, the former to be used for calculating the birth-rate and the latter the death-rate.

There were 428 births (237 males and 191 females) as compared with 395 in 1917 and 481 in 1916. The

birth-rate was 26.4 per 1000 of the population, as compared with 17.7 for England and Wales.

There were 287 deaths, a rate of 19.8 per 1000. The natural increase of population was 141.

CAUSES OF DEATHS.			MALES.	FEMALES.
All Causes	...	...	143	144
Enteric Fever	...	...	1	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	2	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	6	3
Diphtheria and Croup	...	...	1	1
Influenza	...	...	21	26
Erysipelas	...	...	1	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	6	17
Tuberculous Menengitis	...	...	2	—
Other Tuberculous diseases	...	...	7	5
Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	5	11
Menengitis	...	...	1	1
Organic Heart Disease	...	...	9	8
Bronchitis	...	...	7	10
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	12	9
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	1	1
Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years)	...	...	3	1
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	...	...	1	—
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	—	1
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	...	...	1	1
Parturition (apart from Puerperal Fever)	...	...	—	1
Congenital Debility	...	...	19	9
Violence (apart from Suicide)	...	...	8	3
Other defined diseases...	...	...	28	35
Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	1	1

INFANT MORTALITY.

There were 51 deaths of infants under 1 year of age; a rate of 119 per 1000 births as compared with 154 in 1917, 124 in 1916 and 152 in 1915. This must be looked upon as very satisfactory. It is remarkable, however, that more than half of these deaths are ascribed to Congenital Debility, and that there were more deaths from this condition than from any other cause of death at all ages, with the exception of Influenza.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

At the beginning of the year there was an epidemic of Scarlet Fever, which commenced in the previous September, and 252 cases were notified during the year. It was found impossible to find hospital accommodation for all the cases needing such isolation, but fortunately the disease was of a mild type and the mortality was very low. The County Health Visitor kindly sent by Dr. Hill, on my request, for special duty in connection with the epidemic, was very useful and her services were much appreciated.

There were 25 cases of Diphtheria, 13 cases of Erysipelas and 4 of Ophthalmia Neonatorum notified.

Of Typhoid Fever there were 10 cases, 6 were from two families, 2 from one family and the remaining two were separate cases. I have been unable to trace definitely any origin of the disease, but one of the persons some days before had eaten crayfish bought of a woman going round with fish, and I suspect this was the source of infection, which later spread to two other members of the family.

TUBERCULOSIS.

There were 58 notifications of Tuberculosis received. The methods hitherto adopted for dealing with this disease are hopelessly inadequate. There should be complete isolation of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and of cases with discharging tubercular wounds, either in sanatoria or hospitals as they are a serious menace to other members of the family. There should be more attention paid to preventive treatment. A great number of the cases of Tuberculosis are due to infected milk from tubercular cows. All milking cows should be periodically examined by Veterinary Surgeons, and the present primitive and insanitary method of distributing milk should be abolished and some system, like the method mineral water is now supplied in sealed bottles, should be adopted, the milk to be dealt with from first to last under most rigid hygienic conditions.

INFLUENZA.

There was an Influenza epidemic of great severity in July. Pneumonia of a severe type was a common complication of the disease, and the mortality was very high.

HOUSING AND HOUSING CONDITIONS.

It is well known what the housing accommodation and housing conditions of the district are, and I will only say that your Sanitary Officers while trying to do their best in the matter, are practically helpless in getting structural alterations carried out until more houses are built, as at present no accommodation is available for tenants displaced.

As the Council will, before long, proceed with the erection of houses, I thought the following tables giving mortality in Glasgow might be useful and interesting to study.

Incidence of Annual death-rate per 100,000 on population inhabiting houses of :—

	1 and 2 rooms.	3 and 4 rooms.	5 rooms
All Diseases ...	2.650	1.950	1.100
Zymotic Diseases ...	478	246	114
Lung Diseases ...	985	689	328
Diseases of Nutrition in children under 5 years...	480	231	91

Death-rates per 1000 from “all” and “certain” causes in houses of several sizes :—

	All Causes	Zymotic	Phthisis	Respiratory Diseases including Croup.
One apartment ...	32.7	7.4	2.4	7.6
Two apartments ...	21.3	4.5	1.8	4.6
Three apartments ...	13.7	1.9	1.2	2.4
Four apartments and upwards...	11.2	1.0	0.7	2.0

One is not justified, however, in attributing the excessive mortality entirely to overcrowding, as the conditions of life in other respects of the occupants of small,

as compared with large houses, are not comparable, but apart from this there can be no doubt that cleanliness of the atmosphere as affected by density of population is all important.

Owing to the absence of the Sanitary Inspector on military service, no record of work done, or examination made, has been kept, but I have to say that I received every possible assistance from your Surveyor who acted during the Inspector's absence.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. MACLEOD,

Medical Officer of Health.



BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE and ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY during the Year 1918.

	Birth-Rate per 1000 total Population.	ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1000 LIVING.*								RATE PER 1000 BIRTHS	
		All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping-cough.	Diphtheria	Violence.	Diarrhoea & Enteritis (under 2 yrs)	Total deaths under One Year.
England and Wales ...	17.7	17.6	0.03	0.00	0.28	0.03	0.29	0.14	0.49	10.99	97
96 Great Towns, including London (Census Populations exceeding 50,000) ...	17.6	18.2	0.02	0.00	0.36	0.04	0.34	0.15	0.49	14.46	106
148 Smaller Towns (Census Populations—20,000—50,000) ...	17.9	16.1	0.03	0.00	0.25	0.02	0.25	0.14	0.38	9.73	94
London ...	16.1	18.9	0.02	—	0.42	0.03	0.43	0.17	0.56	15.67	107
Hetton Urban District ...	26.4	19.8	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.13	0.62	0.13	0.75	9.34	119

*Non-civilians are included in the figures for England and Wales, but not for other areas.

